

## Notes about Worship at MPC

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. For those who are visiting MPC, please stop by and introduce yourself to our pastor, Courtney Pittman, or to one of the ushers. We want to celebrate your presence! We know there are a lot of demands on your time, so we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning at MPC!

**Children's Church**—Children age 4 and up are invited to join our leaders for fun and faith in Children's Church located in the fellowship building following Let the Children Come. Pick up is immediately following the service in the fellowship hall. There is a nursery available for children under 4.

**Stewardship**—Should you feel called to give today, ushers will be passing around the offering plates during the Invitation to Generosity. Giving is also available online at <https://madisonpresbyterian.church/generosity>.

**Language**—The words we use are important! So often we go into "autopilot" during worship and we miss the meaning of the words we say each Sunday. In an effort to be more conscious of the language we use during worship, some words in our liturgy will change monthly; but please know that you may pray in whatever way you feel comfortable. We are family here!

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### Coming Up in the Life of the Church

**Looking ahead.....**for our Easter services, we will be collecting **new t-shirts and athletic shorts (for men, women, and children—all sizes) for the Family Protection Center in Morgan County.** The center handles sexual assault cases for adults and children—from initial intake and forensic exams/interviews all the way through assistance with the judicial process. These donations will be given to men, women, and children following forensic examinations.

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### Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

**Ministry Bags for March:** We will be collecting items for Pup Packs. Pup Packs began as a ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Advent in 2009. In an effort to combat childhood hunger and improve school performance, this ministry provides supplemental food over the weekends for children who might not have the food they need at home. For over 50% of the children in Morgan County Primary and Elementary Schools, school meals may be the only food they have. Pup Packs is run entirely by volunteers and has no overhead other than the cost of food. Donations of money and food enable the program to run. Volunteers shop for the food and then groups of volunteers meet on Fridays to pack the bags and deliver them to the primary and elementary schools. Once delivered, school counselors discreetly distribute them to the children who have been identified as needing the extra help provided by Pup Packs. Siblings who do not attend the elementary or primary schools are included and so many of the participants carry home two or more bags each weekend. Currently an average of 160 children are served each week. Please choose from the following list to put in your Ministry Bag: pop-top chicken noodle soup or ravioli, instant oatmeal packs, small boxes of raisins, small containers of applesauce, cereal bars or peanut butter crackers.

**Our Outreach Ministry** is providing opportunities throughout the year to serve with nonprofit organizations in our community. For the month of March, they are spotlighting Habitat for Humanity. Our church has a long history with Habitat for Humanity. When Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County was first organized, founding board members and the Lead Builder were from Madison Presbyterian. Today, Habitat's Board includes four church members and our Lead Builder is Hiram Johnston. Our MPC Outreach budget includes supporting Habitat for Humanity financially. On any given Saturday morning, you will find five or six church members volunteering on the Habitat build site. Habitat's mission: Seeking to put God's love into action, bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Home ownership starts with applicants qualifying for a loan. Once approved, the selected home owner, along with friends and family, are required to put in at least 200 hours of sweat equity building. Then, the family moves into the home, leasing from Habitat for six months. Finally, the home owner meets with a closing attorney to close on their home, becoming a proud homeowner with a mortgage. Our church family (16 years and older) are invited to participate in our current home build at 1190 Wheat Street in Madison. We are in the final weeks of this build and anticipate volunteers will be painting and landscaping. We'd love to have a big group representing Madison Presbyterian and supporting this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Christie Jones at [christiejones@bellsouth.net](mailto:christiejones@bellsouth.net).

**One Great Hour of Sharing** We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering beginning today and continue through the end of March. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Envelopes are available in the pews.

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**  
**Palm Sunday**



382 South Main Street  
Madison GA 30650  
(706) 342-2813 phone  
(706) 342-4350 fax  
[www.madisonpresbyterian.church](http://www.madisonpresbyterian.church)

## Gathering as God’s Beloved

### Gathering Music

#### Chiming of the Hour

**Prelude** *Prepare the Royal Highway* Cathy Moglebust

#### Welcome

**\*Call to Worship** *Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org*  
Sing songs of loudest praise!  
**Hosanna!**  
Sing songs that are unashamed!  
**Hosanna!**  
Sing songs without being afraid!  
**Hosanna!**  
Sing for the God of tomorrow and today!  
**Hosanna! Let us worship the One worthy to be praised!**

**\*Hymn and Palm Processional 197** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

**\*Confessing Together** *Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org*  
**Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray...(We continue in silence....) Amen.**

**\*Assurance of God’s Love** *Adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org*  
Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that. So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. **We are free to try again. Alleluia, Amen.**

**\*Response to God’s Grace** (Hymn 582, verse 1)  
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**  
May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!  
**And also with you!**

### Proclaiming the Word

#### Let the Children Come!

#### Prayer for God’s Wisdom

**First Reading:** Mark 11:1-11  
Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** *Hosanna, Hosanna* Joseph Martin

**Second Reading:** John 12:12-16  
Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise*

### Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn 1** *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty*

**\*Affirming our Faith**  
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who challenged Rome’s oppressive power with peaceful protest. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise. **Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**  
**Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### Invitation to Generosity

#### Offertory

**\*Response** (Hymn 609)  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### \*Prayer of Gratitude

### Being the Church in the World

**\*Hymn 196** *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

#### \*Charge and Blessing

#### Postlude

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

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### Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor  
Karisa Seymour—Music Director  
Meghan Shafer—Accompanist  
Handbell Choir—Directed by David Boardman  
Christine Smith—Liturgist  
Coleman Jackson—Acolyte  
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist